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liberty to carry on the worship of God without fear. His song is the true lyric of a priest. It is the expression of deep personal feelings and of intense personal hopes."

The Apocalypse. In the year 1886 a German student named Vischer offered as his thesis a discussion of the composition of the Apocalypse, the boldness and originality of which has won for it wide acceptance. Professor Harnack, to whom it was presented, acknowledged his interest in it in the following generous fashion. We quote from Dr. Martineau's translation in his "Seat of Authority in Religion." "In June last year, the author of the foregoing treatise, then a student in theology at our University, came and told me that in working out the theme prescribed for his department, 'On the theological point of view of the Apocalypse of John,' he had found no way through the problem but by explaining the book as a Jewish Apocalypse with Christian interpolations set in a Christian frame. At first he met with no very gracious reception from me. I had at hand a carefully prepared College Hef, the result of repeated study of the enigmatic book, registering the opinions of a host of interpreters, from Irenæus downwards; but no such hypothesis was to be found among them; and now it came upon me from a very young student, who as yet had made himself master of no commentary, but had only carefully read the book itself. Hence my scepticism was intelligible; but the very first arguments advanced with all modesty, were enough to startle me; and I begged my young friend to come back in a few days, and go more thoroughly with me into his hypothesis. I began to read the Apocalypse with care, from the newly-gained point of view; and it was—I can say no less—as if scales fell from my eyes. After the too familiar labours of interpreters on the riddle of the book, the proffered solution came upon me as the egg of Columbus. One difficulty after another vanished, the further I read; the darkest passages caught a sudden light; all the hypotheses of perplexed interpreters—of 'proleptic visions,' 'historical perspectives,' 'recapitulating method,' 'resting stations,' 'recreative points,' 'unconscious relapse into purely Jewish ideas'—melted away at once; the complex Christology of the book, hitherto a veritable *crux* for every historical critic, resolved itself into simple elements." But this theory is so original and revolutionary as not to commend itself to more sober thinkers. Professor Davidson has said of it, "Such a history of a Jewish Apocalypse is unexampled. Further, there could be no thought of the Apostle John in connection with the book. The authorship of the Presbyter, mentioned by Papias, is a purely modern conjecture. We should have to conclude that the Christian editor gave out the whole with the design that it should be taken for the work of the Apostle John, and that his deception succeeded. This is a strong assumption, considering that the book was probably known to Papias. Again, the Christian editor appears to adopt the Jewish views of the rest of the book, *e. g.* the earthly reign of the saints over the nations (ii. 26 with v. 10, xx. 4). When we take into account the known opinions of Papias, Justin, and Irenæus, and fancy to ourselves the various complexions of faith, the crosses, as we might say, between Judaism and Christianity that must have existed in the earliest times of the Church, we hesitate to admit that a Christian could not have written the whole book. And to mention only one other point: the theory gives no account of the parallelism between the book and our Lord's eschatological discourse."